

Remarks

Applicants request that the Examiner enter the amendment prior to further examination of the application. This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated July 12, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on October 12, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-10 and 36-45 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1-10 and 36-45 stand rejected by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for the reasons presented below.

Claims 1-4, 9, 36-39, and 44 are amended to clarify the invention. The claims are amended to comprise a cartridge for dispensing a chemical reagent into a plating solution comprising shelves contained inside the vessel. Support for the amendments may be found at least at paragraph [0036]. These amendments are not presented to distinguish a reference, thus, the claims as amended are entitled to a full range of equivalents if not previously amended to distinguish a reference.

Claims 1-4, 9, 10, 36, 38, 39, 44, and 45 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,280,617 B1 to *Brandreth, III*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Brandreth, III does not teach, show, or suggest a cartridge for dispensing a chemical reagent into a plating solution comprising shelves because *Brandreth, III* does not use a shelf for holding solid or granular chemical. Applicants disagree that item 37 shown in *Brandreth, III* is a shelf and have amended the claims to clarify that the chemical reagent does not rest solely on the bottom of a container. Therefore, *Brandreth, III*, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest a cartridge for dispensing a chemical reagent into a plating solution comprising shelves, as recited in claims 1 and 36, and claims dependent thereon. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-7, 9, 10, 37, and 40-45 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,280,617 B1 to *Brandreth, III*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Because claims 1 and 36 are believed to be allowable, it is believed that claims 5-7, 9, 10, 37, and 40-45 should also be allowable as they depend from claim 1 or claim 36 for at least the reasons stated above. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 8 and 43 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,280,617 B1 to *Brandreth, III* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,997,712 to *Ting et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Because claims 1 and 36 are believed to be allowable, it is believed that claims 8 and 43 should also be allowable for at least the reasons stated above. *Ting et al.* does not cure the deficiencies of *Brandreth, III* because *Ting et al.* does not teach show or suggest a cartridge for dispensing a chemical reagent into a plating solution comprising shelves. Therefore, *Brandreth, III* and *Ting et al.*, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest a cartridge for dispensing a chemical reagent into a plating solution comprising shelves, as recited in claims 8 and 43. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Keith M. Tackett
Registration No. 32,008
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants